"monarch of all he surveyed." I have another equally important reason for selecting this case, it shows a great amount of intellect in the management of the Liverpool Gas Company, and the consequent flourishing condition of the enterprise, that although the charge to the inhabitants is only 4s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet, the dividend to the shareholders is 10 per cent., and the quality of the gas so advantageously (to all parties) supplied, is described in the following words in the Liverpool report, bearing the signature of "George Lowe."

"When the quality of the Liverpool gas is tested by the quality of that burnt in other large towns and the price paid for the two, the former being 4s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet and the latter 7s. per 1,000 cubic feet, the reference being had to quality alone, the other (the Liverpool gas) would be relatively worth 14s. per 1,000 cubic feet."

The report and evidence shew that it is obligatory on the company to use the best coal and make the purest gas; "that the Company have so done is universally admitted." That the coal used is exclusively cannel coal, at 15s. 6d. per ton; that the yearly average produce from each ton is 9,600 cubic feet of gas, and 13 cwt. of coke; that 211,500,000 cubic feet were made in the previous year, and all accounted for to the shareholders except between 10 and 11 per cent.

On this latter portion of the evidence the report, bearing Mr. Lowe's signature, thus comments:—"In fact, it has been over and over again proved that the leakage is greater than can be accounted for; and that, though it is nominally only 10 per cent., there is as much as 20, and even 25 per cent. of loss which cannot be accounted for."

The report also contains an analytical statement of the 4s. 6d., the cost to the inhabitants of Liverpool of 1,000 cubic feet of gas, in which you will perceive that "the waste" is included; it is as follows:—

		Pence.
Coal		17·83
Labour		5·85
Lime		0·50
Repairs of works		1·19
Repairs of mains		0·86
Repairs of retorts		2·68
		29·04
Credit—Coke, tar, &c.		6·85
		22·09
Add 10 per cent. (?)		2·20
		24·29
Add salaries and office charges		4·25
		28·54
Tools	0·67	
Cartage, waste	0·10	
Ropes, blocks, paint, cement, engine caps, and yard charges	0·62	
Rates and taxes	1·10	
Interest and commission	0·60	
Law charges	0·25	
Bad debts	1·43	
		5·45
		33·99
£10 per £100-share dividend		20·15
		54·14

I will not occupy any more of your valuable time, but again request you to bear in mind that you have not yet seen my experiments in the purification and combustion of gas,—that any evening mutually convenient I shall be most happy to see as many of your court as it may be agreeable to, at these offices, for that purpose.—I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient servant, JOHN LESLIE.

Offices, 59, Conduit-street,
March 14, 1848.

THE MERITS OF POINTED ARCHITECTURE.

THE opinion of pointed architecture expressed by Mr. Kerr, in his paper on Greek Architecture,* has moved the anger of some of our readers. One correspondent thus writes:—

What! Is the magnificent front of York;—the light elegance of the lanterns at Glo'ster and Ely;—the wonderful balance of support and pressure at the Lady Chapel of Salisbury; and the delicate embroidery of Henry the Seventh's Chapel,—to be charged with 'an ever present *crudeness, and perversion, and lack of grace*?'

Let him pace the solemn aisle or lofty nave, while the warm rays of the setting sun shine soft through the noble windows, chequered and varied by the tracery, piers, and monuments, into a play of tints, which is never to be found in the uniform structure of the Greek; or view the deep shades and softened lights which the pale moonbeam lends to the varied outlines of Salisbury,—or walk along the traceried cloister of Glo'ster, while the solemn anthem fills the vaulted space, and spreads over the soul a soft reverence and deep delight, and is, as it were, re-echoed by every line, by every shade of the lovely pile:—let him view these, and then speak of 'an ever present crudeness and perversion, and *lack of grace*.'

Let it not be supposed that this is the mere effusion of a Romish superstition, or an enthusiastic attachment to the form of religion, that gave rise to these structures;—it is not so. It is written by one who has enjoyed such scenes as he has so feebly attempted to present, and who, in the remembrance of them, still feels that there is, in the elegant and noble Gothic, if not all the accuracy of the Greek, yet a whole more poetic, and I may be excused for adding, to me more lovely.

E. I.

* See p. 99 *ante*.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers was held on Thursday morning, last week, Lord Morpeth, M.P., in the chair. Several accounts were presented from the Finance Committee, and ordered to be passed, with the exception of a bill of 90*l*., from the late Holborn and Finsbury Commissioners of Sewers, for three months "*tavern expenses*," which charge was altogether rejected.

It was agreed that power be granted to the committee to appoint an assistant surveyor, practically acquainted with land drainage.

It was ordered that 460 feet of sewer be made in the Marylebone and Finchley-road; and 860 feet of 12-inch pipe be inserted in an open ditch, receiving the drainage of many houses in Gloucester-street, Shoreditch.

Upon the application of the Great London Drainage Company for permissive powers from this Commission, the following resolutions were reported from the General Purposes Committee:—

"That the refuse matter contained in the sewers of the metropolis should remain under the control of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers."—"That any profits obtainable from such refuse matter should be appropriated, under the sanction of the Commissioners of Sewers, to the diminution of the rates."—"That the Bill of the Great London Drainage Company now before the House would entirely appropriate to this private company, without any compensation, the whole produce of the metropolitan sewers."—"That this Bill would have the effect of entirely superseding the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers."—"That, in the opinion of this commission, no plan of applying the contents of the metropolitan sewers ought to be entertained until the general survey and levels have been completed."

Mr. Chadwick, in support of these resolutions, said it was fortunate for the shareholders in this and similar schemes, that an intervention had been carried on through the powers of this court. By this plan the directors proposed to realise a profit of 50,000*l*. by the refuse of towns, and this was to be done without any return or compensation whatever to the ratepayers. One of the companies proposed the abrogation of two main lines of sewers, through a district where the proportion of sewage matter was only as 1 to 500 of water, and this produce was to be applied to land already surcharged with water. The machinery, too, proposed for effecting this object was excessively expensive, as the estimated cost of one tunnel was 25,000*l*., whereas it appeared, by the evidence of their own surveyors, that even this could be done at something less than 7,000*l*. The shareholders, therefore, ought to felicitate themselves on the stoppage thus given to wasteful expenditure.—Agreed to.

The clerk reported that, within the last month, the contributions for sewers in the Westminster division amounted to 576*l*. 15*s*., the largest sum ever received in a like period. He then presented the balance-sheet for the whole of the districts embraced in this commission, which was as follows:—

	Bal. last Ct.			Cheques drawn			Bal. rem		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Westminster	2,420	8	1	1,495	1	3	925	4	9
Holborn & Finsbury	1,353	16	1	230	0	0	1,121	16	1
Tower Hamlets	9,497	14	1	410	0	0	9,087	14	1
Poplar	321	11	1	45	0	0	276	11	1
Surrey and Kent	2,402	7	1	1,331	8	2	1,070	18	11
Greenwich	91	9	3	23	15	0	67	14	3
Total balance							£13,751	19	2

A long memorial was presented from Mr. Stallwood, of Calthorpe-street, Gray's-Inn-road, charging the late Holborn and Finsbury Commissioners of Sewers, generally, with the grossest mal-administration of the funds of the public; and, in particular, with having, during the last thirty years, spent of that money no less a sum than 12,917*l*. *in tavern expenses alone*; that a silver breakfast service had also been purchased for the use of the commissioners out of the rate-payers' money; that the expense of collecting the sewer-rate was more than double that of the poor-rate; that the office expenses for the year ending 1846 were 2,450*l*., besides several other charges of wasteful expenditure. The memorial concluded with a remark, that it was highly derogatory to the character of gentlemen to apply the moneys collected in many cases from the very poor to eating and drinking at the most expensive taverns; that a strict inquiry into the funds should be instituted, and the silver breakfast service sold for the benefit of the rate-payers.—Referred.

Mr. R. L. Jones presented a report from the district medical officers, on the disgraceful state of Holloway, which was referred to the surveyors.—The Hon. F. Byng, seeing the surveyors for the Surrey and Kent division present, wished to know why such foul and extensive open ditches at Dockhead had been allowed to exist so long.—Mr. Newman said it was a cesspool for a number of tenements, and was not a sewer or a ditch. The agent of the owner of the property had been frequently asked to cleanse it, and he had believed such had been done within two months. The Hon. F. Byng said he had seen it only a short time since, with filth in it six feet deep, and that for at least half a mile in length.

On the 16th the commissioners met again; but we must postpone our notice.

Miscellanea.

QUICK WORK AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—The transformation of our national theatre into a circus for French horse-riders was effected with much skill, under the direction of a practised architect in these matters, in a singularly short time. The pit has been covered over to the level of the stage, and a circle formed, partly on the stage and partly over the pit, while the rest of the stage, to a considerable extent backwards, is occupied by rising seats sufficient to contain a large audience, and an orchestra is constructed high up at the back, from under which the performers, bipeds and quadrupeds, enter the arena. The front of the dress-circle, against which the last row of spectators in the pit necessarily lean, is boarded up and covered with red cloth. Shoring to a considerable extent was of course required, under both stage and pit, yet the whole of the work was accomplished in the short space of *five days*, by Messrs. Soward and Son, of Tottenham-court-road. In cases of this sort, the architect is wholly in the hands of his builder: the main thing he has to do, after having arranged his plans, or rather *not* to do, is not to change his mind. Those who carry out his plans with energy deserve praise.

IMPROVED BELL-HANGING.—A short time since we noticed Parker's patent "annunciator" for hotels, mansions, &c., whereby only one bell is required, and the particular room is indicated by a number appearing on the face of the machine. It seems to be a very ingenious and efficient arrangement. In consequence of that notice we have received a letter from Lincoln, signed John Middleton, stating that he has been in the habit of effecting the same thing for a long time past, and pointing to the Palatine Hotel, Manchester, where his arrangement has been in operation for two years, and the Great Northern Hotel, Lincoln, where, in a short time, may be seen forty-four rooms, on two landings, all communicating with two bells. He says,—"I have no intention of patenting my method, and any person is at liberty to examine it, and either carry it out in its integrity or make such improvements as their ingenuity may suggest." At the Holt's Arms Inn, Birmingham, an electric telegraph has been established to supersede bell-ringing. The object is to avoid any trouble to the visitors who frequent the house in calling for refreshment, as indicated on the dial-plate. By turning a handle, which communicates with the wires, the party is enabled to order any refreshment he may require without troubling the servant, and can even request the appearance of the landlord or landlady, as may be requisite!

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